

Comments Regarding the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) 05-143*

Submitted to *WT Docket 05-235* by Derek W. Kaser KB3LWJ

Throughout history, certain standards have always been eliminated in the face of improved technology. While, at some points in time, certain skills are required to succeed in completing a task, newer technology often supercedes the requirement of that skill. It is my opinion that the current Morse code requirement is now facing this fate. Improved methods of radio communication have made the need to know Morse code obsolete. While I do accept that the ability to communicate using Morse code is a valuable skill to have, it is in no way required in order to operate a radio on high frequency bands.

Furthermore, several people have attempted to explain their opposition to this change by attempting to scare current Morse code operators into thinking that the removal of the Morse code requirement will lead to the removal of all Morse-allocated bands. This is not an issue addressed by the Notice of Proposed Rule Making and these comments are simply an attempt to manipulate people into thinking that removing the requirement for Morse code is an attempt to remove Morse code altogether, and nothing could be farther from the truth.

Quite plainly, the ability to send and receive Morse code does not help nor does the lack of that ability hinder a person's ability to safely set up and operate an amateur radio station. The people who wish to state that removing the requirement will lead to having less qualified radio operators remind me of elementary school children who think that any certain skill makes them better or more important than anyone else. Most people learn to outgrow this immaturity and realize that the ability to do certain things does not make them superior to others, but it seems that many people within the amateur radio community do not. People talk about the "respect" of others when communicating by radio, but it just seems wrong to hold respect for a group of people who are selfish and immature.

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